MASON'S

Coin Collectors'

MAGAZINE.

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MASON'S
COIN COLLECTORS' MAGAZINE.

VOL. IV. PHILA., SEPTEMBER, 1882. NO. 2.

The Great Sale of the Bushnell Coin Cabinet.

FULL PRICED CATALOGUE OF SALE, WITH DESCRIPTION OF EACH LOT AND PRICE IT REALIZED BY PUBLIC AUCTION IN NEW YORK CITY, JUNE 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 1882.—REPORTED EXPRESSLY FOR "MASON'S COIN COLLECTORS' MAGAZINE."

LOT.	DATE.	FOREIGN COINS.	DOL.	CTS.
1	1791	Sierra Leone Penny, proof,	1	15
2	1791	Sierra Leone Cent, proof,	1	40
3	1833	Liberia Cent, fine,		30
4	1847	Liberia Cent, very fine,		75
5	1806	Bahama Half-Penny, (Ship,) proof,	1	90
6	1788	Barbadoes Penny, (Pine-Apple,) uncirculated,	1	70
7	1792	Barbadoes Penny, (Neptune,) silver, fine,	3	50
8	1792	Same, copper, proof,	1	50
9	1792	Same, Half-Penny, silver, proof, rare,	2	80
10	1792	Same, Half-Penny, copper, proof,	1	50
11	1793	Bermuda Half-Penny, (Ship,) bronze,	1	55
12	1851	Chilian Centavo, proof,		25
13	1807	Haitian Centime, bust of Christopher, proof, rare,	6	35
14	——	Hatian Dollar, (Boyer President,) uncirculated,	1	55
15	——	Hatian Dollar, (Boyer President,) base, good,		12
16	——	Hatian Half Dollar, uncirculated,		90
17	——	Hatian Quarter Dollar, uncirculated,		60
18	——	Jamaica Penny, very fine,	1	00
19	1818	Mexican Coins, (Provisional,) fine, 3 pieces, each		53
20	1836	Mexican Cuartilla, pattern piece, proof, rare,	1	10
21	1847	One-tenth of a Real, New Grenada, good,		35
22	——	Peruvian Silver Coins, 3 pieces, each		27½
23	1777	Siberian Copper Coin, 5 Kopees, good, scarce,		85
24	1804	Sumatra Coin, very fine, rare,		20
25	——	Cob Quarters, Charles IV., Spain, good, 2 pieces, each		20
26	1790	Two and One Real Coins, Spain, fine, 3 pieces, each		35
27	——	Japanese Itzebu, very fine,		50
28	——	Canadian Silver Coins, 20c., 10c., 5c., very fine, each		15
29	——	Roman Denarius, and small foreign Silver pieces, 14 pcs., each		6
30	——	Foreign Copper Coins, large size, 32 pieces, each		8
31	——	Foreign Copper Coins, miscellaneous, 105 pieces, each		4
32	——	Druggists' and other old weights, &c., 17 pieces, each		5½
33	——	Chinese Cash, various, 240 pieces, lot		80

LOT	DATE.	ENGLISH AND IRISH COPPER COINS, &c.	DOL.	CTS.
34	1672	Charles II Farthing, uncirculated,		80
35	——	Pattern Half-Penny, Charles II, good,		65
36	1694	Wm. and Mary Half-Penny, fine,	2	00
37	1694	Wm. and Mary Farthing, fine,	1	05
38	1695	Wm. III Half-Penny, fine,		50
39	1697	Wm. III Farthing, good,		45
40	1719	Geo. I Farthing in Silver, very fine, rare,	1	50
41	1717	Geo. I Half-Penny, uncirculated,		70
42	1719	Geo. I Farthing, very fine,		20
43	1721	Geo. I Farthing, very fine,		20
44	——	Geo. I Half-Pennies and Farthings, good, 4 pieces, each		7
45	1752	Geo. II Half-Penny, uncirculated,		20
46	1754	Geo. II Farthing, uncirculated,		25
47	1790	Geo. III Pattern ½ Penny, bronze proof,	3	00
48	1797	Geo. III Two Penny Piece, uncirculated,	1	35
49	1797	Geo. III Penny Piece, uncirculated,	1	50
50	1827	Geo. IV Third-of-a-Farthing, uncirculated,		30
51	1849	Florin English, termed the "Godless Florin," fine,		50
52	1848	English Model Crowns, Pennies, ½-Pennies, &c., une., 10 pcs.		12
53	1838	English Young Head Penny, ½d, ¼d ; ¼, ⅛, 1-16 farthings, 4 pcs.		12½
54	——	James I, of Ireland, Royal Farthing, very fine,		65
55	1682	Chas. II Half-Penny, fine,		45
56	1690	James II Half-Crown, silver, good, rare,	6	30
57	1690	James II Shilling, silver, uncirculated, rare,	9	75
58	1689	James II Six-Pence, silver, very fine, rare,	8	00
59	1689	James II Half-Crown, "Gun Money," very fine,		95
60	1689	James II Shilling, "Gun Money," uncirculated,	1	10
61	1689	James II Six-Pence, "Gun Money," uncirculated,	1	15
62	1690	James II Crown, over an old Half-Crown, very fine,	3	00
63	1691	James II Crown, Hibernia seated, fine,	3	50
64	1693	Wm. and Mary Half-Penny, very fine,		50
65	1766	Geo. III. Half-Penny, small head, uncirculated,		25
		ENGLISH COPPER TOKENS.		
66	1794	Cornwallis, reverse Fame, fine, scarce,	2	00
67	1794	Bath, reverse Camel, good, scarce,	1	10
68	1800	Birmingham Penny, proof, rare,	1	25
		TOKENS OF THE 17TH CENTURY.		
69	1666	Andover Half-Penny, reverse Lion, good,		55
70	1668	Cambridge Half-Penny, Thss. Ervin, good,		55
71	1668	Cambridge Half-Penny, John Chaplyn, good,		55
72	1654	Colcheater Half-Penny, (Lamb,) fine,		55
73	1655	Colcheater Half-Penny, Wm. Ferris, fine,		55
74	1661	Ely Half-Penny, Will Turrington, fine,		55
75	——	Hungerford Half-Penny, John Butler, good,		55
76	——	London Half-Penny, fair,		55
77	1667	Stilton Half-Penny, John Everell, brass, good,		60
78	1669	Tetbury Farthing, reverse fish, fine,		60
79	1694	London Elephant Half-Penny, uncirculated,	3	00
80	1694	London Elephant Half-Penny, thin planchet,	2	35
81	1694	London Elephant Half-Penny, variety in reverse, very fine,	2	80
		ENGLISH HALF-PENNY TOKENS.		
82	1787	Wilkinson, 5 pieces, very fine, each		35
83	1791	Liverpool, Stork and Ship, proof,		30

LOT.	DATE.	ENGLISH HALF-PENNY TOKENS.	DOL.	CTS.
84	1791	Liverpool, Stork and Ship, very fine,		35
85	1792	Macclesfield, bust of Chas. Roe, very fine,		35
86	1793	Birmingham, nude male figure, very fine,		51
87	1793	Birmingham, Britannia seated, proof,		55
88	1793	Birmingham, ship, very fine,		50
89	1793	Birmingham, bust of Sam. Johnson, fine,		45
90	1793	Coventry, reverse Elephant, uncirculated,	1	10
91	1793	Britannia, reverse Cornucopiæ, uncirculated,		40
92	1793	Britannia, reverse Ship, (Ernsworth,) uncirculated,		40
93	1793	Petersfield, reverse Stork, very fine,		40
94	1794	Howe, "A map of France," uncirculated,		40
95	1794	Blofield Cavalry, proof,		60
96	1794	Chichester, Jno. Howard, very fine,		60
97	1794	Dublin Grate Token, uncirculated,		40
98	1794	Trade Tokens, various, 4 pcs , very fine, each		35
99	1794	Hull Token, Earl Howe, uncirculated,		45
100	1794	Eccleston, Lancaster Token, proof,		55
101	1794	Norwich, R. Campin, fine,		40
102	1794	York, Cap of Liberty, etc., fine,		55
103	1795	"Rouse Britannia" piece, brass, uncirculated,		55
104	1795	Same, in copper,		52
105	1795	Same obverse, reverse soldiers, proof,		52
106	1795	Same obverse, reverse Indians, uncirculated,		80
107	1795	Same obverse, reverse Lion, fine,		52
108	1795	Same reverse, obverse a cottage, proof,		55
109	1795	Same reverse, obverse a prison, uncirculated,		52
110	1795	Coventry, reverse nude equestrian, uncirculated,	2	05
111	1795	"Pidcock's Exhibition," varieties, uncirculated, 4 pcs., each		52½
112	1795	"British Liberty," reverse a shepherd, tree, etc., proof,		55
113	1795	Same obverse, reverse prize fighters, proof,		38
114	1795	"Liverpool Half-Penny," reverse Metal Co., fine,		35
115	1795	Varieties of the last, good, 2 pieces, each		35
116	1795	Cathedral, York, reverse tower, fine,		55
117	1795	Horne Tooke, Geo. III, reverse a mule, etc., good,		65
118	1795	Reversed faces, (Joy and Misery,) very fine, 3 pieces, each		52
119	1796	Shackled male, the padlock piece, proof,		70
120	1796	Same, reverse donkey, etc , good,		55
121	1796	Bust of Fox, reverse turnstile, proof,		52
122	1796	Same, reverse soldiers, proof,		55
123	1796	Gallows, men executed, proof,		52
124	1797	Coventry, reverse arms, etc., scarce, proof,		95
125	1797	Blofield Cavalry, variety of last, good, 8 pieces, each		30
		FARTHING TOKENS.		
126	1795	Obverse a feline, reverse hand and book, proof,		45
127	1796	Britannia, reverse a boat, etc., uncirculated,		40
128	1795	"Pidcock's Exhibition," reverse an elephant, uncirculated,		45
129	1801	Same, (monkey,) reverse a pelican, proof,		52
130	1801	Same, (beaver,) reverse same as last, proof,		45
131	1801	Same, (beaver,) reverse a lion, proof,		45
		HALF-PENNY TOKENS.		
132	1792	Nude equestrian female, reverse an elephant, rare,	1	40
133	1792	Same, large planchet, uncirculated, rare,	2	20
134	1793	Same, uncirculated, rare,	2	20
135	1793	Same, small planchet, uncirculated, rare,	2	25

LOT.	DATE.	HALF-PENNY TOKENS.	DOL.	CTS.
136	1793	Nude Equestrian female, reverse large horse, uncirc., rare, .	2	10
137	1793	Same, lettered edge, good, ...	1	05
138	1794	Same, (Coventry Cross,) lettered edge, uncirculated, rare, .	15	50
139	1795	Same, (Coventry Cross,) lettered edge, uncirculated, rare,	3	05
		BRITISH AND AMERICAN COLONIAL COINS.		
		MASSACHUSETTS.		
140	1652	N. Eng. Shilling, obv. N. E., rev. XII, fine, extremely rare, .	51	00
141	1652	N. Eng. Six-Pence, obv. N. E., rev. VI, fine, extremely rare,	71	25
142	1652	"Willow Tree" Shilling, fine, very rare, . . .	25	00
143	1652	"Willow Tree" Six-Pence, good, very rare, . .	16	00
144	1652	"Willow-Tree" Three-Pence, good, extremely rare, . .	28	00
145	1652	Good Samaritan Shilling, (purchased by the owner—price no guide—undoubtedly a modern fabrication,) . .	650	00
146	1652	Oak Tree Shilling, very fine, rare, ...	14	00
147	1652	Oak Tree Shilling, variety, fine, rare, ...	5	75
148	1651	Oak Tree Shilling, variety, good, scarce, . . .	2	00
149	1652	Oak Tree Shilling, ("dumpy tree,") fine, rare, . .	10	50
150	1652	Oak Tree Shilling, ("broken die,") fine, scarce, . .	2	25
151	1652	Oak Tree Shilling, ("broken die,") fine, scarce, . .	2	50
152	1652	Oak Tree Six-Pence, perfect, extremely rare, . .	23	00
153	1652	Oak Tree Six-Pence, the word IN omitted, perfect, extr. rare,	25	00
154	1652	Oak Tree Three-Pence, (Hollow Trunk,) very fine, very rare,	11	00
155	1652	Oak Tree Three-Pence, (Hollow Trunk,) variety " very rare,	7	25
156	1662	Oak Tree Two-Pence, very fine, rare, . . .	6	00
157	1650	Pine Tree Shilling, branches with pine cones, fine, unique, .	40	00
158	1650	Pine Tree Shilling, variety, fine, excessively rare, . .	44	00
159	1650	Pine Tree Shilling, variety, fine, excessively rare, . .	51	00
160	1652	Pine Tree Shilling, clipped, good, scarce, . . .	4	50
161	1652	Pine Tree Shilling, (Hollow Trunk,) fine, rare, . .	7	00
162	1652	Pine Tree Shilling, variety, very fine, rare, . . .	17	00
163	1652	Pine Tree Shilling, (Broad Tree,) very fine, rare, . .	13	00
164	1652	Pine Tree Shilling, erect tree, large letters, fine, scarce, .	2	60
165	1652	Pine Tree Shilling, variety in tree, etc., fine, scarce, . .	5	00
166	1652	Pine Tree Shilling, same as last, fine, scarce, . .	5	00
167	1652	Pine Tree Shilling, variety, obverse and reverse, fine, rare, .	11	00
168	1652	Pine Tree Shilling, Root variety, large planchet fine, scarce,	19	00
169	1652	Pine Tree Shilling, small planchet, fine, scarce, . .	5	00
170	1652	Pine Tree Shilling, small planchet variety, fine, scarce, .	4	50
171	1652	Pine Tree Shilling, small planchet variety, good, scarce, .	2	50
172	1652	Pine Tree Shilling, small planchet variety, good, scarce, .	2	00
173	1652	Pine Tree Shilling, small planchet variety, fine, . .	6	00
174	1652	Pine Tree Shilling, small planchet variety, very fine, . .	11	00
175	1652	Pine Tree Shilling, small planchet variety, good, rare, .	2	25
176	1652	Pine Tree Shilling, modern fabricated copy, fine, curious, .	10	00
177	1652	Pine Tree Six-Pence, rare variety, fine, rare, . .	13	00
178	1652	Pine Tree Three-Pence, very fine, ...	—	—
179	1652	Pine Tree Two-Pence, (Wyatt's forgery,) . . .	1	50
180	1652	Pine Tree Penny, silver, modern fabricated copy, . .	6	50
		MARYLAND.		
181	1659	Baltimore Shilling, very fine, very rare, . . .	55	00
182	1659	Baltimore Six-Pence, very fine, very rare, . . .	36	00
183	1659	Baltimore Four-Pence, uncirculated, very rare, . .	34	00

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

PERSONAL NUMISMATIC REMINISCENCES.

By E. Mason, Jr.—No. 2. The Numismatic Chums.

(*Continued from June Number, 1882.*)

During the year 1855 the writer was employed in the counting room of Mr. Newell, Commission Merchant, Front street below Chestnut, this city, and in the same building was the firm of Freeman & Simpson, who employed the now well-known numismatist, J. N. T. Levick, as chief book-keeper. Here, for the first time, met two individuals, who in their own way have made considerable stir in the coin line; one as a private collector, the other as a public dealer, and the two have been friends to this day and had and have now considerable business dealings in a numismatic way. One of these individuals we familiarly term "Jo," and the other "Ned," for the sufficient reason that those were the "short" for their rather long front names, and were their's by right of possession and usage. When these two youths first met neither had any special predilection for old coins, but were rather inclined to social enjoyments, in which the fair sex was an important factor. About a year subsequent to this acquaintance Ned "was on the road," as showman say, with a public exhibition, and Jo remained at his post posting away at his accounts, and when the two met again both had become interested in coins; Jo as a collector, Ned as a speculator. The first interview after a year's separation occurred in 1856 in front of the general post-office, then in Dock street, this city. Jo had the nucleus of a prospective large coin cabinet, in a few choice pieces, and Ned had gathered some old coppers and silver coins during his peregrination as a showman. The following dialogue will explain what followed at the aforesaid meeting:—

Jo.—"Hel—lo, Ned! Where did you drop from?"

Ned.—"Been out with an exhibition."

Jo.—"Get any old coins in your travels?"

Ned (cautiously).—"A few; why?

Jo.—"I'm collecting—got a '99, a 04, and '93—want fine pieces—have you any about you?"

Ned.—"Yes; picked up a fine coin at the ticket office in Pittsburg—queer looking, has a female head with pretty features on it, and the

darned fools who made it spelled the word *dime* with an s—d,i,s,m,e, —queer."

JO.—"Yes, rather queer, (impatiently,) let's see it."

NED.—"What is it worth?"

JO.—"How can I tell, without seeing it?"

NED (producing an uncirculated half disme dated 1792.) JO—(gazing rapturously on the pretty little piece,) "What do you want for it?"

NED.—"Can't sell it less than a dollar—would rather perforate it and hang it on my watch chain."

Never will the writer forget the agility with which Jo snatched a gold dollar from his wallet and passed it over to Ned, thus becoming the owner of the coin, which was subsequently sold in the "Levick Sale" and realized over ten times its cost, while Ned realized nearly twenty times the cost of the piece to him. Time passed on—Jo went on with his collection and Ned with his traveling exhibition until 1860, when the two friends met again at Mason's coin shop, 451 N. 2nd street, this city. Jo continued to accumulate fine coins and Ned alternated coins with shows, picking up in the winter many rare and valuable pieces which were sold in the summer at his coin store. Time passed on—Fort Sumpter had been fired upon, the North rushed to arms, the South followed suit, and ordinary business and pleasure were alike discarded by the people of each portion of the country to take a hand in the more serious business of engaging in "grim visaged war." The coin store was closed and the coin dealer was with the men at the front; so also was his companion Jo, though each igronant of the other's occupation. Time passed on—McClellan with his vast army was working his way on the Peninsular by slow sieges toward Richmond. Ned had become an æronaut of the army of the Potomac, and was engaged reconnoitering the Confederates in the vicinity of Yorktown. While thus employed, Ned was ordered to take a balloon in a certain direction where the operations of the Confederates could be observed on the opposite side of the river, near Gloucester. While up in the balloon about 150 feet high, and while being thus towed by a detail of soldiers who marched in three angular lines drawing the balloon along by ropes, through the long rows of soldiers attracted by the unusual spectacle, his attention was attracted to an officer in a bright blue uniform and silk sash, waving his sword and crying at the top of his

voice: "Hello! Is that Ned Mason up there?" By the use of a field glass we discovered our coin collecting friend, whose appearance had changed considerably, and whose title was Lieut. Levick, of Sickle's Brigade, New York. The next salutation was, "Have you got any coins?" We replied: "Come up to our balloon camp, front of Yorktown, and see." The next morning, bright and early, the orderly announced "Lieut. Levick wishes to see Capt. Mason," and our curiosity tent was honored by a visit from our old chum, who remained far beyond his limit of absence, so enthusiastic was he in the discussion of coins and the examination of the objects of art and war the æronaut had collected and heaped up near the outer pole of his wall tent. Time passed on—the æronaut returned to his coin store, and the Lieut. to his book-keeping; but both now frequently exchange notes on the exciting times of the past and continue their love for numismatology.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Editorial Numismatic Excursion.

Since the last issue of this Magazine, the editor has visited New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Maine and Maryland, securing many incidents for future use. The pressure on our limited pages prevents full details at present, suffice it to say we are under many obligations to A. Fletcher, Esq., of Concord, and E. Rumnells, of Mast Yard, New Hampshire; also deeply indebted to Ferguson Haines, Esq., of Biddeford, and Capt. Wm. Mitchell and E. L. Smith, of Portland, Maine, for kindnesess and courtesies extended; all of which will be long remembered and cheerfully reciprocated should opportunity occur. While in Boston we attended the coin sale of W. E. Woodward, (June 6th and 7th,) and met many notable numismatists, including Appleton, Hubbard, Kennedy, Woodward, Ahlborn and Schayer. We reserve particulars for the next issue.

Appropriate.

Judging by the way Frossard has raised the "Old Harry" over the errors in the Bushnell Coin Catalogue, his residence, "*Irvington-on-Hudson*," reads rather peculiarly in connection therewith.

History of United States Coinage.

LAWS RELATING TO COINS AND COINAGE, FROM 1792 UNTIL 1880

BY AN OLD MERCHANT.

Continued from June Number, 1882.

THE ACT OF JANUARY 14, 1875.

This act provides, in connection with other things, for the issue of subsidiary silver coin, to take up $45,000,000 fractional paper currency; the bullion for the coinage to be purchased by the sale of United States bonds, at a cost annually of $2,250,000.

THE ACT OF MARCH 3, 1875.

This act provides for the issue of 20-cent pieces subsidiary silver coin.

THE PLEA FOR THE DEMONETIZATION OF THE SILVER DOLLAR OF 412½ GRAINS, AND OF PURE SILVER 371¼ GRAINS.

The demonetization of the silver dollar in 1873 was done clandestinely. Evil deeds love darkness rather than light. The intention to commit this act was studiously concealed from all but a chosen few in the Senate and in the House. The question was not discussed in either House of Congress. The President was ignorant of the intention and of the fact till long after the act. Many senators and members of the House did not know of the demonetization for two years after it was done. Had a plain bill been offered to set aside the silver dollar of our fathers for the benefit of the bondholders it could not have passed. The conspirators against their country well knew this. They brought in no such bill. They passed a new and lengthy coinage act, for which there was no necessity, but to enable them to do *this one thing in disguise*. This coinage act made no change in the quantity of silver or gold or copper in the coins of the United States. The relation between the metals established in 1834 and 1837 was continued. The token coins of 1864 and 1866 remained the same. No new gold or silver coin was created, excepting the trade dollar, for which there was no necessity, and which was limited to $5 in legal tender, and not intended for use in the United States.

When we sift the coinage bill of 1873 and compare it with those of 1792, 1834, 1837, 1849, and 1853, we see there was no necessity for that law, and that the sole object in passing it was to demonetize the old

silver dollar of 412½ grains standard silver and 371¼ grains pure silver, and to banish all gold and silver full legal tender coins from the United States, *except American standard gold.* All foreign coins are demonetized by this act, as well as the silver dollar. This law was not necessary to create the subsidiary silver coins. They had been in existence since 1853, and were then current in the country. The people generally did not know of this demonetization for three years after it took place. The information fell upon them like a clap of thunder in a cloudless sky.

To have, by a cunning trick, destroyed the old unit of the money of account, which had stood undisturbed for 81 years, was incredible; but was a fact nevertheless. No such effort had previously been made in the nation.

The question of making the silver dollar of 371¼ grains pure silver the unit of the money of account had been fully discussed by Hamilton and others, and adopted by Congress in 1792.

Questions connected with silver and gold were again discussed in 1834 and 1837; but the silver dollar remained unchanged in the quantity of pure silver.

They underwent other examinations in 1849 and 1853. Halves, quarters, and dimes were made light, and legal tender for five dollars only, in 1853; but the silver dollar was not changed. In 1849, the gold dollar was authorized. If the idea of demonetizing the silver dollar could have been properly entertained at any time, 1849 was the time. The gold mines of the Pacific coast had just been discovered. Why was not the silver dollar demonetized? The reason was, that the people and Congress of the United States looked upon the silver dollar of 371¼ grains pure silver as a sacred contract between the United States and the nations of the earth and between the Government and the people, that said dollar should be and remain unchanged the unit of the money of account in the United States, and that all accounts and all proceedings in courts should be kept and remain therein

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

The New Coin Book.

The large Encyclopedia of the coins of the world, to which we have occasionally alluded in past issues, is now in press and will be ready for subscribers in October.

Martelle's Curious Currency.

A very genial native of sunny France is Mr. Martelle, of Worcester, Mass., and a very strange collection of frames of coins and currency is in his possession, which annually fetch him the first premium at the fairs held in Worcester. But the strangest collection is a large number of the last issue of U. S. fractional currency notes of the denomination of ten cents. The portraits of Meredith are converted by the aid of pencil and brush into Popes, Turks, Prime Ministers, and other foreign dignitaries, many of which are facetiously formed.

Haseltine's New Sale Catalogue.

J. W. Haseltine, of this city, has issued the best and most comprehensive Coin Sale Catalogue that has ever appeared from any dealer's hands in the United States. This valuable work of 68 pages, partially illustrated, not only gives the selling prices, varieties and conditions of coins, but embraces almost everything collected by Americans—coins, medals, tokens, bank notes, colonial and continental paper money, postage stamps, U. S. fractional currency, Indian stone implements, etc., etc., and all for a quarter of a dollar. Such books are a credit to any dealer.

A Veteran Ex-Mint Employee.

The genial John Birnbaum, of this city, called to see us in July, and related many interesting circumstances connected with the old U. S. Mint, now standing at 7th & Filbert streets, this city. Mr. Birnbaum worked the old hand coining press which struck off the proof 1827 quarter dollars, (now so rare as to command one hundred dollars each.) In 1827, Dr. Moore, of Bucks county, this state, was the Director of the mint, and our friend Birnbaum praised his directorship highly, and also commended in strong terms of approval Moore's successors, Patterson and Snowden, while for Pollock he entertained anything but a friendly spirit. It seems that Pollock removed Birnbaum after a faithful service of 34 years in the U. S. Mints to make room for a younger man. Mr. Birnbaum is bent with age and very feeble, but retains in his memory many interesting reminiscences of the old 7th Street Mint.

Bushnell Coin Catalogue Dissected.

Our friends, Woodward and Frossard, have "pitched into" the composition of the Bushnell catalogue with a vim that exhibits a determination to correct the abuses of parties unfamiliar with correct numismatic authorship. Woodward was first in the field with his sarcastic, analytical pen, and demolished with amusing vehemence the superstructure known as the "Bushnell Coin Catalogue." Frossard followed in his July *Numisma*, and attacked the walls, bringing down an interesting quantity of *debris*. The authors of this catalogue can now learn a lesson, the moral of which is "modesty." Instead of claiming to *know all*, *do all*, and omitting credit for borrowed information, will it not be more creditable to them to avoid in the future the conceited remarks which they hypodermically, so to speak, inject into the subject matter of their numismatic descriptions?

NUMISMATIC HISTORY OF ENGLAND, FROM 1066 TO 1882.

BY F. J. JEFFERY.

Part I.—1066-1504.—*Continued from June Number, 1882.*

In 1344 the noble was reduced nearly ten grains in weight, a pound of gold making forty two nobles; and, at the same time, the penny was reduced to twenty grains, a pound of silver producing 22s. 6d. by *tale*.

False coins, called lusshebournes, began to be imported by merchants and others, who carried the good coin out of the realm, replacing it by these. Parliament was petitioned. Three years afterwards this base coin was still found to be coming into the country, and several merchants were hanged and drawn for inporting it. So plentiful indeed were these base coins that Chaucer alludes to them in his *Monkes Prologue*.

In consequence of the lineal relationship of Edward to the late king of France, he struck, in 1339, coins with "King of France" added to his dignities; and this title, except for a short period during the life of the same king, was used by every succeeding English sovereign till the great issue in 1817. It is said by Froissart that this was first done to satisfy the Flemings, who wished to be on Edward's side in the

contest between England and France; but, having taken oath not to fight against the king of France, Edward adopted the claim and title to enable them to assist him and still be free from the charge of perjury.

In 1470 angels were struck of the same value as the noble of Edward III Edward IV, in 1465, in an indenture, ordered 45 nobles to be made from the pound of gold, each noble being current at ten shillings, so that a pound of gold was coined into £22 10s. Silver was also diminished in weight. The new nobles were called rails, from the French, who gave that name to the coin on account of its bearing the figure of the king in his royal robes. Angels were afterwards called noble-angels, because they were of the same value as the former nobles and bore the impression of St. Michael and the Dragon, which design is supposed to have been the origin of St. George and the Dragon. In the fifth year of Henry VII, says Ruding, "Gyles, Lord Daubenay, "and Bartholomew Rede, of London, goldsmith masters and workers "of the Mint, in the Tower of London, were ordered to make a new "money of gold according to the print and form of a piece of lead "annexed to the letters patent. The coin to be of the fineness of the "standard of the gold monies of the realm, according to the indenture "between the king and them, and to be double the weight of the royal. "Twenty-two and a half of such pieces to be coined out of the pound "weight tower, and to be called the sovereign and to have course in "receipts and payments for twenty shillings sterling."

This is the first introduction of our gold medium now in circulation. First called a "sovereign" from the monarch or sovereign, in full length on the obverse; it was changed in name to "double rail" by Mary, in accordance with her Spanish fancies and tendencies; again styled "sovereign" by Elizabeth, "unit" by James I, "guinea" by Charles II, and recoined as "sovereign" in 1817; rising and falling in relation to the shilling, as gold was scarce in relation to silver, more than once passing current for thirty shillings.

In this period we find the shilling of twelve pence, introduced by William I, from Normandy, but the penny, a "pennyweight," or 24 grs., being the weight of 24 grains of flour from the middle of the ear of wheat, was the only coin now known to have been issued in his reign of which we have a specimen. At a comparatively early date the first introduction of gold as a coin was opposed by the citizens of

London, and only just at the close of this first or rude era do we see the sovereign appear: what we may term the two extremes of our present currency were coined at its two extremes; the shilling was not known as a coin, but was merely a money of value, and copper had not yet appeared as a circulating medium. The lawyer's fee had been settled in the shape of a noble, "six and eight pence," but our modern subscription of "a guinea," was not yet invented.

Though a penny varied in weight from twenty-four grains in the time of William I, such was the increase in the value of metal, that in the time of Henry III it had been reduced to twelve grains, or about one-half.

COINS IN CIRCULATION—1066.

Penny, weight 24 grains.

COINS IN CIRCULATION—1504.

	Grains weight.	Value.
Gold.		
Sovereign,	240	20s. 0d.
Half,†		10s. 0d.
Ryal,‡	120	10s. 0d.
Half,	60	5s. 0d.
Quarter,	30	2s. 6d.
Angel,	80	6s. 8d.
Half,	40	4s. 4d.
Silver.		
Groat,	48	0s. 4d.
Half,	24	0s. 2d.
Penny,	12	0s. 1d.
Half,	6	0s. ½d.
Farthing,	3	0s. ½d.

†It is believed that the half-sovereign and the ryal were the same coin.

‡All the nobles coined during and since the reign of Edward IV were termed Rials, and the old coins in circulation Rose-nobles, or Rials, and current at 8s. 4d. The noble, first coined at 6s. 8d., thus rose to 8s. 4d., and as shown above under the head of Rial, was worth 10s. in 1504.

End of Part I. (*To be continued.*)

Pitt Button, 1766.

A Wm. Pitt brass button about the size of a dime has been described to us and an impression furnished. Bust of the Earl of Chatham in the centre, surrounded by a narrow band containing the legend: "No Stamp Act—Pitt—1766." The button presents a similar appearance to the Pitt ship token. Can any of our readers throw light on the history of this button; for what purpose manufactured and by whom worn?

Frossard's Numisma for July.

The above little bi-monthly journal, published and edited by our big-hearted cotemporary, Edward or Edwin, or some other "Ed.," whose surname is Frossard, (perhaps his usual way of signing—"Ed. Frossard"—means "Editor Frossard,") is before us; full of interest, especially to the editor of MASON'S COIN COLLECTORS' MAGAZINE, and we feel disposed to send him a check for a few hundred dollars as a slight token of esteem; but upon second thought, we find the present state of our exchequer would necessitate the sending of "somebody else's" check, hence we forbear and humbly thank our friend, hailing from that delightful summer resort, "Irvington on Hudson," for his first-class notice in the July *Numisma*, and feeling *tickled* to such an extent that we cannot do justice to the contents of Bro. Frossard's publication, and only submit one article, which speaks for itself, and speaks trumpet-tongued for the humble efforts of one who is struggling to help the cause of numismatology. Score another good mark for the author of the following tip-top "glory hallelujah" compliment:

"Mason & Co., publishers of the COIN COLLECTORS' HERALD, announce that the HERALD will hereafter appear as a magazine. Mr. Mason possesses abilities of a superior order, and will know how to make his publication interesting to collectors. The March number of the COIN COLLECTORS' HERALD, Vol. III, No. 4, is a good sample of what Mason can do; he is well informed, thoroughly master of his mother-tongue, enterprising, and knows where to place "the golden grain of wit." There is in fact no reason why he should not succeed. At any rate he carries with him in his new undertaking the good wishes of *Numisma* for the success and prosperity of the COIN COLLECTORS' HERALD, as a magazine, a monthly, or in any form it may hereafter assume. Since the above was written, we have received MASON'S COIN COLLECTORS' MAGAZINE, Vol. IV, No. 1, being the first number of Mr. Mason's publication in magazine. This publication is to appear quarterly at $1 per annum. The number is well filled with readable and interesting articles on various numismatic subjects, is printed in clean type on excellent thick paper, and has a handsome cover with a photo-engraving of rare U. S. coins. All success in your enterprise, brother Mason."

NUMISMA.

Plethora of Dollars and Halves.

In H. P. Smith's, Steigerwalt's and Frossard's catalogues of sales, July and August, there is a large quantity of old dollars and half dollars of United States coinage. They brought good prices.

History of the Rosa Americana Pieces.

The English government appreciating the want of coin in America, did as they did everything in those days, sold out the job of supplying the want. Wood, whose Irish money is well known, got the job, and in 1722, in connection with a Mr. Marsland, got up the Rosa Americana pieces, the dies being engraved in London and the coins struck at the French Change in Hog Lane. The coins struck were the penny, half-penny and farthing.

ROSA AMERICANA PENNY.

These are of three dates, 1722, 1723, and 1733.

GEORGE I.

Obverse.—Bust of George I., laureated, facing right.

GEORGIVS D G MAG BRI ERA ET HIB REX.

Reverse.—A full-blown rose without stalk or leaves. ROSA AMERICANA 1722. UTILE DULCI on a ribbon below the rose. Those of 1723 have a crown on the rose, and the date of 1723.

GEORGE II.

Obverse.—Head of George II., laureated, facing left.

GEORGIVS II D G REX.

Reverse.—Rose on a stalk, with a branch with leaves on each side, rising out of the ribbon. ROSA AMERICANA 1733.

UTILE DULCI on the ribbon.

This coin is very rare. Of late years only four specimens have been known, one of which, bought in England for $35, for C. I. Bushnell, Esq., of New York, was lost in the steamer Arctic.

HALFPENNY AND FARTHING.

Obverse.—Head of George I., facing right.

GEORGIVS DEI GRATIA REX. *Reverse.*—Rose (crowned in 1723). ROSA AMERICANA. UTILE DULCI 1722 reading around, or ROSA AMERICANA 1723 and UTILE DULCI on a ribbon below the rose.

The farthings differ in the same way. Utile Dulci is from a line in Horace; "Omne tulet punctum qui miscuit utile dulci": He bears away all honor who combines the useful with the agreeable. But to take the two last words merely, "useful with the agreeable," was not very wise; for to one who did not recollect the allusion, it might mean "Useful for a sweet person or thing."

How to Keep Coins Bright.

It has long been a source of annoyance to collectors of silver coins and medals to find that their coins, which have been carefully laid away in cabinets and drawers, become tarnished and frequently assume a black appearance, very detrimental to the value of fine and rare pieces. Wherever gas and coal fires are used silver coins will become tarnished, no matter how well enveloped in paper or protected by cabinet facilities. This tarnish can be avoided by occasionally dipping the pieces in a solution of *hyposulphite of soda*, and rinsing in hot water; the latter serving to dry the metal. We would recommend laying the pieces on a dry linen towel. Make the solution sufficiently strong to remove the tarnish. The use of the dangerous and deadly poison, cyanide of potassi, which serves the same purpose, should be avoided by all persons desirous of protecting their eyesight and avoiding other evils arising from its employment.

Numismatic Reviews.

CATALOGUE OF THE COLLECTION OF THE LATE CHAS. I. BUSHNELL, S. H. AND H. CHAPMAN, PHILADELPHIA, JUNE, 1882.

For weight of paper, form of book, and number of lots, we are inclined to pronounce the Bushnell catalogue a "big thing" and almost pre-eminent in the catalogue history of the coin trade. Not quite equal, however, to Woodward's huge semi-annual catalogues, (issued 1862 to 1866,) but when the numismatic expert opens its pages and reads the description of the pieces, the "big thing" dwindles into insignificance compared to the compilations of catalogues by Cogan, Strobridge, Authon, and others. To the scholar, the Bushnell catalogue presents some choice selections for home amusement, regular literary tit-bits. All rules of grammar are discarded with a flippancy and a cool indifference to Lindley Murray's instructions to those who write for the public. The cataloguers have planned a style of their own in composing sentences, confusing genders, misusing pronouns, losing themselves in orthographic efforts to wrestle with words of one syllable. Let us refer to the "Preface" to this wonderfully constructed catalogue. In this

we find a little Quakerism which denotes a desire to be Orthodox among the so-called "friends," passing which, however, we come to the statement that "*in the preparation of the catalogue we had the paper made to order, and had new type purchased from which to print it.*"

Is it possible that there was not paper or type sufficiently good enough for their work to be found in Philadelphia, where some of the finest books in the United States have been produced? Isn't this kind of boasting a little "Kingly," or on the order, "bombast," to say the least? "Had new type purchased"—"had the paper made to order." The paper is white enough, clear enough and heavy enough, and the printer's work is faultless. The types were no doubt purchased by the printer, regardless of the insinuation otherwise. The paper, types, and press work do not excel other work in the numismatic line—notably the catalogues of Marvin, of Boston.

The Bushnell catalogue has rather flimsy covers, unequal to retaining for any length of time the weight of paper they enclose, especially those with the plates inserted. We recommend immediate binding in stiff covers to all possessing this catalogue, and would add the advisability of cutting down the margin to reduce the book to a convenient size for handling. We shall allude to the various peculiar descriptions of this catalogue in future issues of this journal.

Fire!

The following letter explains the cause of delay in publishing the regular issue of the *Boston Quarterly Journal:*

American Journal of Numismatics,
18 Somerset Street, Boston.

A fire on the night of July 4, when the *Journal* was ready for mailing, has destroyed almost the entire edition. As soon as possible, we shall reprint and forward to our subscribers. J. Colburn.

It seems that the numismatic publishing fraternity are not exempt from the devouring element that annually destroys so much valuable property. Wm. P. Brown was a victim to fire a few months ago and his valuable "Curiosity Cabinet" and other publications were turned into chaff and swept away, let us hope not forever! Boston publishers have had their turn, and now we must look into our fire insurance record in this city and be prepared to meet the enemy.

Coin Business Improving.

Steigerwalt's sale of coins, August 1 and 2, was a success; so also was the coin sale of Frossard, August 3. The Bushnell sale of coins gave an impetus to the trade everywhere.

June Magazines Wanted.

Parties that received the June number of our Coin Magazine and did not subscribe for Vol. IV, are requested to return the same or put a price on it, and we will purchase same. Having distributed the first number of our new Magazine rather liberally we are running short of them and desire a few to complete volumes in the future. Will exchange No. 2 for No. 1.

A New Numismatic Term Coined.

Frossard can "go up 'head" for inventing a term in numismatic nomenclature that beats somebody's "Rare Thus." In his May 26th coin sale catalogue, lot 63, he describes a certain U. S. dollar, in the following brief but appropriate line:—

"1840. Lingering mint lustre. Good." We wonder if Bro. F., when penning the "lingering" description of the coin, thought of the *hit* he was making when he added the word "good" at the termination of his paragraph? "Lingering mint lustre" is *good*, and answers two purposes, conveying the condition of the coin and the quality of his fabricated numismatic term. Good!

Wanted!

To complete a line of coppers of these United States, I want some varieties of the following dates: A "Clover Leaf," 93—on edge, the *vine* and *bars*. A '94 encircled, on reverse, with *little stars*. A '99 will suit me that has the *dotted nines*, an "1804" that's perfect in all its little lines; also an "1809," as *sharp* as it can be, in date, designs and stars, and from all bruises free. And for these fine pieces, if perfect from the die, five hundred dollars is offered without a groan or sigh. The address is with the Editor, as plain as it can be. And those that doubt my credit can send them "C. O. D."

W. H. N.

PHILADELPHIA, August, 1882.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Woburn, Mass., June 3rd, 1882.

Messrs. Mason & Co.—*Gents:*—I must confess I do not know whether it is so written or not in the "version vulgate of nature's own book," that the up shall be down, and the down up. As I not being one of those——"literary fellars," I am not personally acquainted with the aforesaid mentioned volume, but taking the one given in connection with other things, and inferring that the "bitter school of experience" is meant, in which old Dr. Franklin used to say, she taught a dear school, but fools would learn in no other. I rest contented with the idea that one soul has been made happy; but I ought perhaps to give my reason for renewing subscriptions to the Herald since you credit me with being one of the "stand by's," for it is not because I love you, or that you may be a "bigger man than Grant," but simply because I like the paper, and that I consider it one of my very best investments for the money that I ever made, and I have made a few in a small way during my few years of majority. Without the Herald and the *American Journal of Numismatics* I should be all at sea concerning my favorite hobby, and those periodicals I consider the ablest and best in this country that have yet come under my observation. The thing I regretted most, was, that Mason's Magazine ever suspended at all. Now Mason, this is not taffy, nor buncombe, it is gospel truth and uttered with full knowledge of what I say. Yours, M. Littlefield..

[For a *liittle field*, our old and valued patron and correspondent has made a wide-spread complimentary argument and covered the whole ground. We stand with bowed head, hat in hand, and a facial expression speaking louder than words—"thank you."—Editor.]

Presque Isle Range, Erie, Pa., August 3, 1882.

Sir:—I saw your "ad" in *Harper's*. I want a large perfect stone spear head—not *arrow*, but *spear* head; one perfect arrow head, one stone axe, one stone hammer, one Indian pipe, one amulet, and one perforated stone. Can you fill this list? If so, how much money do you want for the same? I have large fine fossils from Lake Erie, petrified ferns from the Ohio coal fields, very fine large specimens of iron ore from different localities. Erie and vicinity is historic ground. Here Gen. Anthony Wayne, Commander-in-Chief of the U. S. Army, died and was buried. I have several pieces of well-preserved chestnut wood, taken from the bottom of his grave. Here Commodore Perry built the fleet that won the great victory over the British in the battle of Lake Erie, Sept. 10th, 1813. Here the fleet returned with some of the captured vessels after the battle. Perry's famous flagships Law-

rence and Niagara were sunk in this harbor for preservation. The Lawrence was raised, taken to the Centennial and sold at sheriff's sale. The Niagara remains here. I have visited these wrecks many times and secured many interesting relics. For 14 years I have lived within a few rods of the wrecks. I now have six pieces of water-stained oak from both the Lawrence and Niagara—twelve pieces in all—and each piece will make a beautiful cane. I have many short pieces from six to 24 inches long, suitable for rulers, etc. I have a large quantity of beautiful periwinkle shells and beautiful pebbles, picked up on the beach near the two flagships. I also have spikes and square bolts, taken from the Niagara and Lawrence. I also have other relics I cannot now mention. F. H.

[Should any of our readers desire relics, such as described by our correspondent, address this office.—ED.]

☞Several letters for this department are crowded out.—ED.

PRIZE PUZZLE DEPARTMENT.

The following answers to three of the four prize puzzles in the June number are selected as the best received, and prizes awarded. No correct solution has been received to prize puzzle No 3.

No. 1. *Answer.*—The scarcity of copper caused by the war of 1812-14, and the overplus of copper cents of previous dates on hand in the mint at the close of the year 1814, is believed, in the absence of official explanatory facts, to be the reasons why the date 1815 was omitted in the issue of the series of U. S. copper cents. D. J. MORGAN, U. S. Hotel, Atlantic City, N. J.

No. 2. *Answer.*—The reason why the early U. S. gold coinage was without a denomination in dollars and cents can doubtless be attributed to the fact that our larg r gold pieces were at the time of issue known as "Eagles," and the division and sub-division of the pieces naturally followed and were readily known by the public as "Half Eagles" and "Quarter Eagles," thus following the usages of several other nations.
W. H. NEVIL, 535 Spruce Street, Philadelphia.

N. 4. *Answer.*—Overdates, or the continued use of one die through two or more years, was due either to the absence of competent designers and engravers at an early period of our history, or to a spirit of economy in saving the expense of new dies. E. RUNNELLS, Mast Yard, N. H.

MASON & CO.—*Gentlemen :*—I have been working for some time on that 3rd prize puzzle, in the June No. of your Magazine. I suppose you have received solution before this, but as you offer a prize for *each* solution, I send mine. 16 plus 37 plus 45=98. 98 plus 2=100. Yours truly, H. G. HIPP,
JULY 7, 1882. Prin. Public School, Gobleville, Van Buren Co., Mich.

Arthur T. Blain, of Kansas, sends the following prize puzzle No. 3 : 27 plus 8=35, plus 16 plus 49=100.

J. G. Bingham, of McGrawville, New York, submits the following : 15 plus 36, plus 47, total 98, plus 2=100.

[The intention of adding the nine pieces or numerals with but *one addition* has been overlooked by our puzzlers ; hence we leave the solution of "Prize Puzzle No. 3" open for another effort. The puzzles will be continued in the next issue.—PUZZLE EDITOR.]

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